



September 26, 2019

THURSDAY, 6:00pm – 7:30pm

***Night in the American Village* Book Talk:**

Women in the Shadow of the U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa

Featured Speaker: Akemi Johnson, Author

At the southern end of the Japanese archipelago lies Okinawa, host to a vast complex of U.S. military bases. A legacy of World War II, these bases have been a fraught issue for decades—with tensions exacerbated by the often volatile relationship between islanders and the military, especially after the brutal rape of a 12-year-old girl by three servicemen in 1995.

But the situation is more complex than it seems. In *Night in the American Village*, Akemi Johnson takes readers deep into the “border towns” surrounding the bases—a world where cultural and political fault lines compel individuals, both Japanese and American, to continually renegotiate their own identities. Focusing on the women there, she follows the complex fallout of the murder of an Okinawan woman by an ex-marine in 2016 and speaks to protesters, to women who date and marry American men and groups that help them when problems arise, and to Okinawans whose family members survived World War II.

Thought-provoking and timely, *Night in the American Village* is a vivid look at the enduring wounds of U.S.-Japanese history and the cultural and sexual politics of the American military empire.

AKEMI JOHNSON is the author of *Night in the American Village: Women in the Shadow of the U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa*. A former Fulbright scholar in Okinawa, she has written about the island for *The Nation*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Explore Parts Unknown*, and other publications. She has also contributed to NPR’s *All Things Considered* and *Code Switch*. A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and Brown University, she lives in Northern California.

Light refreshments will be provided, and location is wheelchair accessible.

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**Co-sponsored by the
Chicago Japanese American
Historical Society (CJAHS) and
the Japanese American
Citizens League - Chicago
Chapter (JACL-Chicago)**

Event and Parking are Free.
RSVP to Ryan Yokota
By calling or emailing at:
**773-275-0097, ext. 222 or at
ryokota@jasc-chicago.org**